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## **AAA WINS PRIME TELEVISA SLOT** **Several more wrestlers jump as well**

The new, upstart Triple A promotion, now clearly backed in significant financial measure by Televisa, Mexico's largest television network, surprised viewers this weekend by gaining control of what is considered to be the prime television slot for wrestling currently available in Mexico City. This comes at a time when even more wrestlers, some of whom are considered the best lighter weight wrestlers in the country, have jumped to the Triple A.

When wrestling fans in Mexico City tuned to channel nine Saturday night, and when lucha libre fans tuned their Morelos One satellites in the same direction, they were surprised to see the EMLL broadcast its show of less than twenty-four hours earlier, the final card of the spring tour of la Arena Coliseo [The card was: 1) Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense, Lizmark, and Atlantis versus Jerry Estrada, Pierroth junior, and Javier "el Monarca" Cruz; 2) Apolo Dantes, el Filoso, and el Hijo del Solitario versus el Egipcio, el Supremo I, and Emilio Charles junior; 3) las Cavernícolas III (Popitekus, el Verdugo, and el Hombre Bala) versus la Aguila Solitaria, el Solar II, and el Tigre Universitario; 4) Super Kiss, el Nuevo Audaz, and el Guerrero Samurai II versus Enjambre, Marabunta, and el Archangel de la Muerte; and 5) Kaoru Maeda and la Venus versus Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales and Xochitl Hamada].

The previous Saturday night had aired the new Triple A promotion's first show. The second week of the Triple A ended up airing Sunday afternoon (considered the better of the two slots) at 12:00 noon. This was a major surprise in that Televisa had in effect caused a nationwide strike last year by giving the EMLL the prime Sunday afternoon slot to televise lucha; and here in its second week of existence, the Triple A has already usurped the EMLL's better slot.

It should be obvious by now, as beautifully covered by Dave Meltzer in *The Wrestling Observer Newsletter* in the 5/25 issue, that the Triple A is heavily funded and influenced by the ultra-wealthy Televisa network. I even saw in the magazines where the microphone used in the May 7th news conference to announce the new Triple A promotion had a Televisa "flag."

The second Triple A show did air in Mexico and on satellite Sunday afternoon, May 24th, but was partially bumped by the overrun of the extremely long Indianapolis 500. The Triple A card for television was set to be this: 1) Fuerza Guerrera, The Blue Panther, and Cien Caras versus Konnan el Barbaro, Octagon, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo; 2) Los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (Tony Arce, el Volcador, and Rocco Valente) versus el Angel Azteca, el Misterioso, and el Volador; 3) The debut of the micro-super-estrellas, even smaller than the mini-super-estrellas, as "los Micro Destruyores" faced Micro-Konnan, Micro-Volador, and Micro-Misterioso; and 4) Heavy Metal Casas (ex-Canelo Casas), el Picudo, and el Brazo de Platino versus el Falcon, Super Halcon, and Super Atomo. The last three matches basically aired.

As you might have guessed by that line-up, this means that even more stars have jumped to the Triple A. From the UWA has come el Falcon. From independents have come el Gran Guerrero, Super Halcon (Danny Ortiz), and el Brazo de Platino. And from the EMLL have jumped Heavy Metal Casas (ex-Erick "el Canelo" Casas), Super Atomo (ex-Robin Hood), el Misterioso, and el Volador. It is rumored that Javier "el Gusano" Llanes, son of very influential ex-commissioner Enrique Llanes, may soon be coming in. Also rumored are la Mascara (who is now working as Bronce in el Trio Metalico in the EMLL) and Jose "el Negro" Casas. My guess *now* is that Negro Casas will be in the Triple A and very soon. They now have his father (senior referee and maestro Pepe Casas) and one of his brothers here. By the way, when it comes to the two Brazos brothers who are here, Super Atomo and el Brazo de Platino, I believe that they have been "sent" here or "placed" here by their older brothers, the three main Brazos, to "keep an eye on things in the locker room." The older Brazos are openly considered "peacemakers" amongst the three main federations and two unions. This is also the reason, I believe, that Super Brazo, the fattest Brazo, has suddenly shown up on a whole host of UWA booking sheets in the last few weeks. The Brazos have an enormous amount of respect and trust amongst "the boys" and will try to keep things from turning into all-out warfare. There are still those who say that the real big nail on the coffin for the UWA last year in trying to keep up with the EMLL was when los Brazos signed full-time EMLL contracts in May and UWA attendance and gates tend to bear this out.

**AAA TELEVISION RUNDOWN:** As of the moment, that's all the news on the split that I have; things will continue to shake out for several weeks to come. Thanks to reader David Scherer in Marmora, New Jersey, I did get a chance to view a tape of the first ever Triple A show. Here's what I thought:

The opening match was into the third fall on my tape. Here, rudo super-mini-estrellas el Espectrito junior, el Piratita Morgan, and el Pequeno Cobarde defeated the tecnico team of CMLL World Super-Mini-Estrellas Champion la Mascarita Sagrada, Octagoncito, and el Justicierito in three falls. Sagrada was disqualified at the 4:52 mark of the third fall. He and Espectrito had been trying to unmask one another. As Sagrada whipped Espectrito into the corner, and as Espectrito fell from the blow, he pulled off his mask/wig quickly and threw it at Sagrada, who was caught red-handed with the evidence by heel referee "el Suspenders." I won't give a grade to this because I saw too little of it but these guys are usually worth the price of admission alone and this looked to be no exception. El Justicierito did a nice cross body block outside the ring after taking off from off of the top rope. Octagoncito did a super "tope suicida" through the ropes as well. There was a ton of heat for this match. The crowd at the show, taped at "el Auditorio Benito Juarez" in Veracruz, Veracruz, rarely gets to see these guys in action locally (maybe once or twice a year) so they were white hot at the start.

I should add at this point that for television purposes, Televisa sent its "A" team to this show. The two announcers calling the action were Doctor Alfonso Morales and Arturo "Art" Rivera, who are considered 1-2 by Televisa. The ring announcer was the world's second best, Armando Gaytan (Tanaka from New Japan is better). And the referees were Pepe "Tropi" Casas, who had had a nice recent push on EMLL cards since the death of "el Gran Davis," and a new ref, "el Suspenders," with whom I was totally unfamiliar.

The segunda had los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (Tony Arce, his brother Rocco Valente, and captain el Vulcano) over the new team of Winners, el Giro, and el Colorado two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 12:23. The first fall went 4:36 before Winners pinned Arce with the move of the night, an "Air Pillman" but with a dropkick as the end move rather than a clothesline. The second fall went 2:40 before all three rudos made el Colorado submit to "la mesadora," the swinging reverse upside down boston crab submission hold. The final fall went 5:07 before all three Destruyores made a wishbone out of el Colorado. Here I was most impressed with Winners. He has been a star on the local Puebla circuit for some time. He participated in both the 2/5/91 UWA World Lightweight tournament in Puebla and in the February 1992 CMLL Welterweight tournament there. He is super, both solid and spectacular, and this superb rudo team only made him look better. El Giro, who has a gyroscope gimmick, looked next best among the tecnicos—fine really, but not so good as Winners. El Colorado was not in the league of the other two tecnicos tonight. This was an excellent match by any standards, and great by lucha ones. \*\*\*3/4 legit.

The semifinal saw the reverse from the previous match; this time we had recognizable tecnico names and new rudo names. Well, Fuerza Guerrera captained the winning rudo team, and he's not new, but his partners Ice Killer (ice hockey gimmick) and la Parca (death gimmick a la Skeletor) were new to Televisa. They defeated el Angel Azteca, the returning el Justiciero, and captain Octagon in three long falls in 22:49. The first fall went 11:35 before all three tecnicos managed to get simultaneous falls on all three rudos (amazing how simultaneous things can be in lucha libre, isn't it?). The second fall went 3:22 before Fuerza Guerrera pinned Octagon with the tilt-a-whirl body slam. And the third fall went a very long 7:52 before Fuerza Guerrera made Octagon submit to the side boston crab submission hold. The point of this match occurred at the end of the last two falls, where Octagon accidentally nailed el Angel Azteca in both falls, leading to the tecnico team's defeat. With the rudos egging him on, Azteca eventually, after a nice slow dramatic pause, slugged Octagon a couple of times and would have continued, but suddenly the rudos from the next match (los Hermanos Dinamita) stormed the ring and there were six rudos pounding on Octagon and el Justiciero. Azteca looked around a bit and then, letting bygones be bygones, entered the fray to save his old friend Octagon. This was a good match, for sure, but they dragged it out so long that they killed almost all the crowd heat in the middle (they got most back with the story at the end). Octagon and Fuerza were particularly good together, though they should be as much as they work together. I was impressed a little with la Parca and not much at all with Ice Killer but as rudos they did not have too much showing off to do. \*\*\*3/4.

The main event saw la Mascara Sagrada, el Fantasma, and captain Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo defeat los Hermanos Dinamita (Mascara Ano Dos Mil, Universo Dos Mil, and captain Cien Caras) in two straight falls in 14:10. By the way, this was not a title match (los Dinamita are Mexican National Trios Champions) and on television neither commentator nor ring announcer Gaytan acknowledged any prior or current belt any of these wrestlers held or hold. The first fall of this match went 3:33 before la Mascara Sagrada pinned Mascara Ano Dos Mil with an off-of-the-top-rope dropkick. The second was called at 10:37 when "impartial referee" Casas disqualified los Dinamita for bringing a chair into the ring and continuing to use it to pound the heels upon even after the ref's warnings. This continued the "character storyline" that puts Cien Caras and his teams over as the rudos who would rather punish and inflict pain than necessarily win the fall or the match. Fantasma, who debuted in 1968, had yet another new set of tights and looked real good, considering or not considering his age. Aguayo tried hard and Sagrada was A-OK. As for the Dinamita, they are always the same—it's just whether they bring their working shoes; tonight they did. Very solid effort by all. \*\*\*

Overall, let me say that I was impressed by this first effort; it is already, in my opinion, a better and more lively show than the UWA and has far better wrestling. It's too early to make a blanket statement or see a trend from just one show; nevertheless, given Triple A President Antonio Pena's penchant for high work rate and employing the best workers he can, I expect only the best. The announcing was super and the graphics were new and crisp. The show is highly recommended.

### **EMLL NEWS/RESULTS:**

The biggest card that the EMLL has run since April 5th, 1992 (the day they finished their winter tour of la Arena Mexico) was held this past Tuesday night, May 19th, at la Arena Coliseo. It was a joint EMLL/UWA card, and all proceeds were marked for relief efforts following the tragic explosions in Guadalajara in April. The match-ups here were unique. The main event saw Mil Mascaras, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and Atlantis defeat los Mosqueteros del Diablo (los Brazos--el Brazo, el Brazo de Oro, and el Brazo de Plata) in three falls in what was said to be a good match. The semifinal was *extremely* interesting as ex-CMLL World Trios Champions los Nuevos Infernales (M. S. 1, el Pirata Morgan, and el Satanico) defeated current UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) in three falls. The finish of the third fall saw el Satancio use el Signo's own finisher, "el nudo" (aka "The Signo Special") against him and make el Signo submit cleanly! This was after el Signo and el Satancio had gotten into a bloody brawl during the third fall. The crowd, said to be filled with pro-EMLL (and anti-UWA) hard-cores, reportedly went nuts at the finish. This was said to be a very good match. The UWA got some glory in the tercera as ex-UWA World Trios Champions las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V and *boy* if you only knew how rare it was that these three sons of Rey Mendoza worked a card promoted by Paco Alonso--I'd sooner expect Hulk Hogan at The Great American Bash) defeated the EMLL team of Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, el Felino, and el Gran Markus junior in three falls. The segunda saw 2/3 of "la Plaga del Ring," Enjambre and Marabunta, defeat el Guerrero de la Muerte and el Chamaco Ayala in three falls. And the inicial had the independent lady wrestlers in the ring. There, rudas la Venus and la Pantera Surena defeated Mitsuki Wong and Atenas in three falls. The card sold out its 5,100 seats plus some standing room only seats, and top ticket price was 25,000 pesos ringside. This translates to about \$8.06 USA. But, since the average daily wage in Mexico, according to an AP article published in the last two weeks, is \$4.50, and the average USA daily income is roughly \$35.00, the rough equivalency would mean that a 25,000 peso ringside seat in Mexico City would be about the same as a \$62.69 ticket here in the USA. So, for this benefit card, the ticket prices were up beyond USA standards and up at Japanese heights. I do not believe, sadly, that this card was taped. The EMLL Tuesday night card used to air on Saturday nights in Mexico City but with the advent of the Triple A that appears to be a thing of the past.

Going in reverse chronological order, here are some other recent EMLL card results. To catch up and complete a couple of cards from la Arena Coliseo: 1) on Sunday May 10th, on the undercard of the eight-team parejas tournament won by the Mendoza brothers, the segunda saw Climax and Babe Richard defeat Pegaso (he's real good) and Talisman junior in three falls and the inicial found Olimpus and Super Angel over Master and el Reyes Veloz I in three falls. On the card from May 8th (it aired on Galavision on May 17th), the inicial off television found Babe Richard and Mario Prado junior defeating Super Kiss and Talsiman junior in three falls.

Ringo Mendoza gave a concert (i. e., he sang) before the EMLL card held Sunday, May 10, 1992, at la Arena Deportivo San Lorenzo in Mexico City. Mendoza, who in real life is legitimately close friends with legendary Mexican singer Vicente Fernandez (those of you who recognize that name know just how big a star he is in Mexico--he does native folk songs and mariachi songs and Ringo and Cachorro use one of his songs as ring entrance music), has said in several magazine interviews that he sung as a child and had he not been a wrestler would have tried to be a singer a la Vicente Fernandez. Must have been a lucky charm too, as Mendoza and The Blue Demon junior defeated Masakre and "el Chacho" Herodes in three falls in the main event. The finish saw Masakre dive off of the top rope with a "plancha" (cross body block) aimed at Ringo, but Ringo moved and the ref got nailed for an automatic disqualification. The semifinal found Super Muneco and el Halcon 78 defeating la Aguila del America (not the EMLL America or the WWA's Bobby Bradley, this is the original "American Eagle" for many years) and Kennich in three falls. Luchadoras Vicky Carranza and Josseline won the tercera in three falls over la India Azteca and la Guerrera Purpura. Super-mini-estrellas el Medio Kilo and la Antorchita won the segunda in three falls over el Rayo de Luna and el Pequeno Relampago. El Hombre de Bronce beat Sprayman in three in the inicial.

Saturday, May 9, 1992, saw the traditional Saturday night card for the EMLL at la Pista Arena Revolucion. Atlantis main-evented that night, teaming with el Jalisco and el Faraon to defeat Kendo Nagasaki, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil in three falls. Mascara 2000 was disqualified for fouling Atlantis in the third fall. The semifinal saw las Cavernicolas I, II, y III (el Verdugo, his brother el Hombre Bala, and Popitekus) defeating el Cachorro Mendoza, el Duro, and Rokambole in three falls. Los Ku Klux Klanes I, II, y III re-appeared in the tercera; they were victorious in three falls over el Nuevo Audaz, Joe Mercado junior, and Super Atomo. The segunda saw Super Star and Super Kiss over Atila junior and el Escudero Rojo in three falls. And the inicial found los Kaifanes I y II defeating Olimpus and la Magia Azul two falls to one. As you can see, here two days after the AAA was formed, some of their

wrestlers worked this EMLL show.

And some worked on a show at "una arena chica" (small arena) that same night, 5/9. This was at la Arena Apatlaco in Mexico City. The main event saw Konnan el Barbaro, Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, and Thunder defeating los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil) in three falls. Konnan was also involved in the semifinal, but in a bizarre way. In a non-title mano a mano, Distrito Federal Light Heavyweight Champion el Principe Island lost two out of three falls to el Rey Gestas. Gestas stayed into the ring to celebrate and as Konnan led the tecnicos into the ring for the main event, Gestas was still there. Gestas said something to Konnan (it was not reported what was said) and immediately Konnan lit into Gestas and they had a pull-apart brawl. I have no idea whether this was a "work" or not, but according to Box y Lucha it looked pretty legit. The undercard featured independent wrestlers. The tercera saw Shazam, la Tormenta Negra, and el Capricornio defeat Arafat, el Macho II, and el Illegal in three falls. The segunda was el Versatil, el Fuyio, and el Escorpion Negro defeating el Cubano, el Odio Negro, and The Black Boy I in three falls. The inicial had The Bird Boy II and el Campesino Marquez over Sangre Nueva and el Angel Poblano (who is the younger brother of la Fiera and the son of Hercules Poblano) in three falls.

Wednesday, May 6, 1992, saw the weekly card at la Arena Coliseo in Acapulco, which is naturally in Acapulco, Guerrero. Right before the main event, senior EMLL referee Roberto "el Guero" Rangel was given an award by the wrestling commission in Acapulco. It honored his 21 years of consecutive service at the Wednesday night cards. Some Wednesday nights they do not run (maybe four to six per year) but during the last 21 years, Rangel has worked every Wednesday night EMLL card in Acapulco that has been run. Incredible. I should add that Rangel's home is Acapulco. The main event had local hero Lizmark gain revenge on the man who had captured his NWA World Light Heavyweight Championship last 4/5/92 in Mexico City, el Satanico. In a rare mano a mano with no other stipulations, Lizmark pinned Satanico in both the first and third falls to cleanly win this non-title match; the third fall finish was the old Mil Mascaras flying cross body block ("lance mortal"). The semifinal featured Salomon Grondy, Aaron Grondy, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon defeating Mascara Ano Dos Mil, Universo Dos Mil, and el Comando Ruso two falls to one. The finish of the match was Dragon doing his "la quebrada" (the Asai moonsault bodyblock outside of the ring from off of the second rope) onto el Comando Ruso, who subsequently was counted out of the ring. The "especial" had Koga and Iga from SWS defeating el Comando Ruso and Ponzona in three falls. Yes, el Comando Ruso did work two straight matches (he replaced Cien Caras in the semifinal). The finish was two clean simultaneous tecnico pinfalls after successful tope suicidas. The tercera had el Hijo de Huracan Ramirez over el Insolito in three falls. The segunda found Mogambo beating Ponky in three falls. And the inicial featured el Misterio Verde winning the first and third falls from Super Brillante.

The Tuesday night card from May 5th at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City featured some unusual trio pairings in the main event: M. S. 1, Kendo Nagasaki from SWS, and el Satanico defeated el Filoso, Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla, and el Rayo de Jalisco junior in three falls. The finish of the third fall saw el Satanico use "el nudo" to make el Filoso submit. The semifinal saw a victory for the spectacular tecnico trio, el Trio Metalico (Oro, Plata, and Bronce). They defeated el Guerrero Negro, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and el Septiembre Negro junior in three falls. The tercera found la Aguila de Plata, Super Gallo, and el Nuevo Audaz defeating the obnoxious Javier "el Gusano" Llanes, el Volcanico, and Panico in three falls. Super Atomo (aka Robin Hood) teamed with Joe Mercado junior to defeat el Escudero Rojo and Climax in the segunda in three falls. And the inicial featured los Kaifanes I y II, on a bit of a winning streak, defeating Super Angel and Dick Angelo junior in two consecutive falls.

Now, briefly, for some EMLL news that is not purely result-related:

\* Both el Espectro de Ultratumba and el Cadaver de Ultratumba were interviewed this past week by ESTO, Mexico's largest circulation all-sports daily. The interview was part of series where athletes in different sports get a chance to say which football (soccer) team in the playoffs is his favorite and which player as well. But the paper did give nice space to the two luchadores and they got to run down their professional backgrounds including titles won, etc.

\* I am still researching the whole story, but the current effort by Televisa to start a new promotion in opposition to the EMLL is not its first. Back in 1952, when it was Televiscentro, it contracted with Jaime Garza Hernandez (aka "Don Chucho") and they tried a promotion that was based out of the Televiscentro studios. It failed miserably when neither the network nor Garza Hernandez could convince more than a couple of big names to jump. After that failure, Televiscentro washed its hands of wrestling, axing all its wrestling programs off its schedules. It would not return to televising wrestling until 1991.

\* And the boys in the EMLL who belong to the old union (Sindicato Nacional de Luchadores...) seem to be in a state of near-panic, according to the newspapers. The opening of the new promotion was bad enough, but the charges (unrebutted so far as I have seen) about graft and corruption in the union and the ease at which a new union was formed and accepted as a part of the COM ("Confederacion Obrera Mexicana") clearly has the old-boy-network on the defensive and in a real bad spot. If this new union succeeds, many EMLL boys and UWA boys will want to join....



## UWA NEWS AND RESULTS:

Here is a summary of results that I have for the last few weeks in the UWA territory. First, though, let me report that even in Mexico City itself coverage of this promotion has slipped drastically. I have looked at the last five issues of *Box y Lucha* magazine. They are the most news-oriented and most impartial of all the lucha libre magazines in Mexico (maybe anywhere). I compared their coverage to what they covered in 1991 and in 1990. The UWA coverage is way, way down. Today, generally, the only card of the week they (or most other magazines) will report on is the Sunday card at el Toreo. The Saturday main card in Cuernavaca, the Friday main card in Netzahuacoyotl, the Thursday main card at la Pista Arena Revolucion, the Tuesday main card in Pachuca, and the Monday main card in Puebla have not been reported on recently, even once, by the weekly magazines. Fortunately, the newspapers still do. In its May 15 issue, *Box y Lucha*'s head "editorial columnist" blasted the UWA television product, calling it at best "muy soso." This comes on the heels of *Peligro* magazine's charges of fraud by the UWA in billing Andree el Gigante as a wrestler and *Custodia* magazine's article this week castigating the UWA while praising the arrival of the Triple A. I reviewed their recent television this week and these guys are in big trouble. When I review the cards for this weekend, I'll comment on one angle/match they have up their sleeve that might draw, but these guys need new blood and a new corporate strategy quick. And it's not just me saying that. The newspapers, the wrestling magazines, the tabloid magazines, and most importantly, their fans (attendance) are telling them that. So far, they haven't listened. Here are the results:

\* Friday, April 24, at la Arena Netzahuacoyotl: I covered the main event already where los Cowboys defeated los Head Hunters to retain the UWA Parejas Championships. The rest of the card saw Andree, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Doctor Wagner junior defeat Canek, Fishman, and el Villano III in two straight falls. All of Andree's matches were kept to two falls. The finish of the second fall saw Bigelow claim Canek fouled him (Canek did no such thing). The tercera saw Rambo, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro defeat el Solar I and Tinieblas senior and junior in three falls. Alushe was there and did a cross body block off the second rope onto Rambo. The segunda saw Lasser and el Gran Apache I defeat el Mohicano II and Mister Condor in three falls. And the inicial had el Rayo Tapatio I (he's real good) over el Sable in three falls.

\* The next Friday, May 1, at la Arena "Neza" saw the main event virtually repeat the semifinal from last Friday night. Andree, Bigelow, and Wagner defeated Canek, Fishman, and Villano III via DQ in the second fall when Canek DID foul Bigelow (after Canek had been fouled). The semifinal saw el Tigre Canadiense (Mike Lozansky), Silver King, and el Texano defeat The Head Hunters and Doctor Wagner junior (working twice) in three falls when the Head Hunters double head butted the two referees (el Bucles and el Fresero) for the automatic disqualification.

\* Saturday, May 2, at la Arena Apatlaco in Mexico City, saw a mixed rudo/tecnico main event (called "relevos increibles"). Canek (rudo) and el Coloso (tecnico) defeated Fishman (rudo) and el Fantasma (tecnico) in three falls. Canek pinned Fishman clean in the third fall with a move called "la tortilla;" I have no idea what that move is. The semifinal saw rudos Gargola el Sultan (from EMLL), King Xadu (independent) and el Rey Gestas (from UWA) defeat tecnicos el Hijo del Solitario (EMLL), el Principe Island (UWA), and Lethal (independent) in three falls. El Rey Gestas, who is a "flying elephant" gimmick a la Tamba, pinned el Principe Island clean in both the second and third falls to set up a match the following Saturday (5/9) for Principe Island's Distrito Federal Light Heavyweight Championship. That match was held, but it was a non-title match; it's in the EMLL section as the headliners were all EMLL/AAA boys. The tercera had Tio Sammy and los Bengalis I and II over los Renegados I and II and la Amenaza Azteca in three falls. This was a "revancha en superlibre" (revenge) match since the tecnicos lost the week before, but they lost again tonight. The segunda had el Cubano and el Viento Negro over el Capricornio and el Cachorro Negro in three falls. And the inicial found Marfil and el Silencio defeating Sacristan and el Traficante II in three falls.

\* Speaking of el Principe Island, he did successfully defend the Distrito Federal Light Heavyweight Championship (that he won from el Indomito 4/12/92) by defeating el Canalla I at la Arena Altavilla on Sunday, May 3, 1992.

\* Also, AWWA stars Super Raton and Super Pinchoio retained their Distrito Federal Parejas Championships recently (sorry, I do not have a date or an arena) by defeating el Rey Cobra and el Sismo, a regular UWA parejas team.

\* Sunday, May 3, at la Arena "Neza" found Silver King, el Texano, and el Hijo del Santo over Fishman, The Killer, and Doctor Wagner junior two falls to one. Underneath, Haracki "el Gran" Hamada, el Villano III, and Enrique Vera defeated Rambo and The Can-Am Express (Doug Furnas and Danny Kroffatt) in three falls.

\* Here is a summary of May results at el Toreo: On May 3rd, Andree/Enrique Vera/Villano III d. Canek/Wagner/Killer 2-0; Gran Hamada/Texano/Silver King drew Fishman/Can-Am Express; Signo/Navarro/Black Power d. Fantasma/Celestial/Villano I 2-1; Moctezuma/Ojo de Tigre/Hijo de Super Zan d. Engendro/Kahos I/Baby Face I 2-1; and Lobo Rubio/Hijo del Diablo/Falcon d. Katana/Kendo Star/Halcon 78 2-1.

\* Sunday May 10th saw Bufalo Allen/Kokina/Black Scorpio d. Canek/Andree/Villano III 2-0; Fishman/Can-Am Express d. Fantasma/Solar I/Hamada 2-1; Navarro/Signo/Power drew Falcon/Engendro/Shu, el Guerrero; Kahos I/Scorpio

Scorpio junior d. Villano I/Super Raton/Super Pinochio 2-1; and Pimpinela Escarlata/May Flowers/Casandro/Rudy Reyna d. Katana/Kendo Star/Gran Apache I/Halcon 78 2-1.

\* Sunday May 17 at el Toreo saw Andree/Canek/Villano III d. Bufalo Allen/Kokina/Black Scorpio 2-0; Negro Casas/Killer/Fishman d. Coloso/Vera/Hamada 2-1; Villanos I/IV/V d. Head Hunters/Rambo; and Engendro/Espanto junior/Lobo Rubio/Shu, el Guerrero d. Tortugillos Karatekas 2-1.

\* Results from Saunday, May 24, el Toreo should be in the late news.

And here are some of the things going on outside the ring in the UWA territory:

\* Their weekly television show that aired this past Saturday (May 23rd) in Mexico City was again broadcast from el Toreo, showing the card of May 17th listed above. Alcatraz was still in as head commentator.

\* This week, Andree el Gigante finally ended his third tour of Mexico and first since 1984. In the area of bringing foreigners, the UWA announced that Miguelito Perez junior and Ricky Santana (The Iceman in W\*ING promotion) return beginning next Sunday, May 31st, for a brief tour. Also, Bam Bam Bigelow and el Gigante Warriro returned for a tour on the el Toreo card of May 24th.

\* Speaking of that card, the main event, which had been set up on the 17th, was a singles match between Canek and el Villano III. El Villano III has said on numerous occasions that he was going to retire soon (the first I heard of it was early 1991) and el Villano I said even a few months before then that he would soon retire too. I would not be surprised to see Canek and el Villano III get into a mask feud. I mean, how often has el Villano III been billed as the son of Rey Mendoza? It's not as if he's hiding "su incognita" in that sense. Now, I do not know for sure this is happening or even if it does that it is happening shortly. Lord knows the UWA could use the excitement of this feud, though it will probably not be too hot in the ring. Not a chance Canek would lose, either.

\* I got some information on the new UWA World Welterweight Champion, el Espanto junior. He is Jesus Andrade Salas. He was born November 5, 1956 (which makes him a bit older than I thought). He debuted in 1972. He was born in Gomez Palacios, Durango; the only other Mexican luchador of whom I know that was also born in Gomez Palacios is The Blue Panther. I mention that because the two have a similar size, a similar build, and a similar wrestling style. The only major title he had held before this was the WWA World Lightweight Championship.

\* And speaking of the title change, after researching through all the magazines and newspapers, I can find no record of either el Espanto junior or el Hijo del Santo being booked in a singles match together during the last two to three weeks. They have not been on all that many cards together at all. I am beginning to wonder if this might have been a "phantom" or office title change. The only date I don't have completely covered since May 1st is Wednesday, May 12th, and there was an independent card at la Arena Apatico that night, but I do not have the line-up, so my assumption from last week that that was the date and the arena was just that, an assumption.

\* Fishman was also interviewed recently and he too said he debuted in 1972. He is one of the few wrestlers working Mexico City regularly who was born in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. He has had a historic career, winning the masks of el Faraon, Sangre Chicana, el Monarca, his best friend el Cobarde, and el Rey Misterio. He has been National Welterweight Champion (3 times), NWA World Middleweight Champion (twice), WWF World Light Heavyweight Champion (twice), and UWA World Light Heavyweight Champion (twice). Still, in Mexico, the one trivia item most aficionados know about Fishman is that he is married to lady wrestler Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales. He also said that he was in the final match of el Solitario, the one where el Solitario died immediately afterward.

\* National Featherweight Champion The Bird Boy I was also interviewed recently. He said his real name is Ricardo Amezcua Carreno, and that he had been wrestling for six years. He won the title last August from Super Archie but one week later lost his hair to Super Archie in a revenge match. By the way, as a featherweight, he weighs 73 kilograms (about 161 pounds). Bird Boy normally wrestles in the southern part of Mexico and its circuits and when he comes to Mexico City, with his smaller weight, the UWA won't use him on any of its major weekly shows.

\* Lastly in this string of "interview recaps," el Villano V was interviewed. He said that he had entered dental school before deciding to become a wrestler full-time. When he debuted, in 1978, he used the name "Rokambole," a name another wrestler, one who is a licensed M. D., uses today. He debuted as el Villano V at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos on March 19, 1985. The UWA World Light Heavyweight Championship he just won 4/3/92 from el Signo is the first big singles' title el Villano V has ever won. Once again, the magazines are dropping hints that los Villanos are about to, or are considering, turning rudo. Certainly in the Canek/Villano III singles' match last Sunday, Canek would have received the majority of the cheers, even though he is the rudo. In fact, with their fan attendance down so far, many of the fans that they get are more "Canek fans" than anything else. Los Villanos have been, to me, among the least impressive of the UWA tecnicos and I suspect the average fans is as tired of seeing their matches as I am. That's just an opinion and a guess though, but they have not been very impressive on the last seven months of television that I have seen.

## CMLL TELEVISION RUNDOWN:

The introduction even had a surprise as a somewhat startled-looking Raul Sarmiento (with glasses) accompanied Miguel Linares to the microphone for the introduction, which focused on the different weight divisions in Mexican wrestling and boxing. The two announcers seemed to me to be still reeling from the announcer split at Televisa, with the two "main" announcers getting to call the Triple A show and these two "relegated" to the EMLL. Maybe I am reading more into this than should be read, but I wonder. To me they seemed a bit wobbly most of the first match.

And that first match saw the re-appearance of los Guerreros del Espacio ("The Space Warriors"), a team made up of Damian, el Guerrero, el Guerrero del Futuro (Jose Luis Feliciano) and captain el Guerrero Maya (Esteban Mares, ex-Black Terry). They defeated the "martial arts" team of Koga (Toshiyuki Nakahara from Japan's nearly-extinct SWS promotion), Iga (Masao Orihara from the same SWS), and captain el Guerrero Samurai II. I know it "Guerrero Samurai II" because "I" died November 1990 in a car crash. The match went three falls and 14:42. The first fall went to los rudos (Guerreros) in 4:32 when both masked Guerreros (Damian isn't) pinned Guerrero Samurai after a double-team elbow drive in the corner. The second fall went 4:11 before Koga pinned Guerrero Maya with a "rana invertida" (sunset flip). The third went 5:58 and ended when el Guerrero del Futuro pinned el Guerrero Samurai with an exact copy of the Genichiro Tenryu diving reverse elbow drop from off of the top rope. Good luck if he tries that in his match this week with Tenryu in Japan. That's one of Tenryu's signature moves and I find it peculiar that right before a Japan trip that a Mexican wrestler would pick that one up. This was not a bad match and a far sight better than the match two weeks ago that los Guerreros were in (versus el Tigre Universitario) that looked so bad. Iga and Koga have definitely picked up more off the lucha libre style. With SWS winding down (or expected to) I would not at all be surprised if the EMLL plans to use Iga and Koga full-time. The move of the match was when el Guerrero Samurai, trying to do an arm drag, jumped from the mat to the top rope, landing in a standing position of the top rope. Then, after a bounce, he flipped back and dragged his opponent on through. A great balance move. Koga and Iga were a little late on their dives at the end of the third fall, but otherwise were the best thing in the match, and los Guerreros were fine. A solid, professional, television opener. \*\*3/4.

The next feature was a clip of Rene "Copetes" Guajardo. They mentioned that the date of his passing was May 11, 1992. The information I had last week was all correct (even the date of birth) except that he first won the NWA World Middleweight Championship in 1960. Considering that Guajardo was one of the prime movers in the UWA/EMLL split 17 1/2 years ago, I thought it was a classy act for the EMLL television to give him a nice send-off. I wonder what the UWA TV did. By the way, they did air—unedited—the same Cartometro popularity poll (that included so many AAA guys) that had aired in the Mexico City version of this television show.

The tercera of the card was our second match. Here, Kung Fu (Reymundo de la Cuesta Veloz), el Comando Ruso (Juan Carlos Torres Navarro), and captain el Supremo I made up the rudo team. Ruso came to the ring with a new mask and uniform which looked cool; underneath it was the same el Comando Ruso—solid and professional but not spectacular like a Charles or an Estrada or a Salvaje. Kung Fu also had a new full-body uniform which, I must say, I liked a lot. His hair has grown back a lot, too, and no doubt will be up in a stipulation match before too long. Supremo, a former "Mister Mexico," just like Mil Mascaras, looked the same as ever. They faced and defeated the tecnico team of 51-year-old Anibal (Carlos Ignacio y Carillo), CMLL World Welterweight Champion America (ex-el Pantera II), and captain el Filoso. Filoso used to wrestle under another name but was given this gimmick (the ghost of lucha libre past) in honor of the opening of the lucha libre museum in suburban Coyoacan. The first fall went a lengthy 10:33 before America pinned el Supremo with a "tope en reversa," which is a reverse flying head butt from the middle rope. The second saw a truly memorable match-up when Kung Fu faced off with Anibal—you had to have been there folks. Talk about two guys past their prime. Fu won the second fall by pinning Anibal after two leg bombs at 2:55. The third fall went 4:34 (and the match 18:02) before el Supremo I pinned el Filoso with a simple side suplex. This, like the first match, was as clean as a sheet rudo victory, with no help from heel referee "el Gato" Montini (Javier Medina). I liked this match the least on the show, and maybe the least of any match so far in 1992 except for the Blue Panther/Love Machine mask fiasco. It is a statement of how good their television has been this year, though, that this year's worst match is just about equal to last year's average match. Of course, you know what I think about Fu and Anibal, but they tried and they got some heat. Fu even brought out a favorite foreign object (lemon juice or pepper or something) to spray juice into an opponent's eyes. Fu is the only EMLL wrestler to bring foreign objects into the ring. There was some attempt at mask removal here but there just was not much of a spark in the match-up. After a while, it became fun to get into the Fu/Anibal spots. After the match, Supremo managed to pull Filoso's mask off; one of Filoso's teammates went out of the ring, got the mask, and gave it back to Filoso, who put it on inside out. I had never seen a wrestler put on his mask inside out before before this weekend and now it happened twice (see the Fuerza Guerrera match in the Triple A rundown.) America, often inconsistent, was good here for the second week in a row, though not so spectacular as last week. Ruso was solid and the best of his team. Supremo and Filoso were "muy soso" or about the same as always. A fair effort but certainly nothing to write home about. \* 1/2

The semifinal, like last week, saw real mismatched teams. The tecnico side emerged victorious here. They were: the ever-graceful (<sarcasm) Salomon Grondy, The Blue Demon junior (the palest native Mexican luchador I have ever seen—I love it), and Mexican National Welterweight Champion Ciclon Ramirez, one of my favorites. They won two of three falls in 12:28 from the rudo team of captain el Felino (ex-"Baby" Casas), Mexican National Heavyweight Champion el Egipcio (Jose Luis Hernandez), and Jerry "el Puma" Estrada. Most of the match was spent highlighting the "pique" or feud between the two welterweights (Felino and Ramirez). The first fall went 5:21 before Demon pinned Estrada with "la hurracarrana," which was only invented about 25 years before the FrankenSteiner. Demon and Estrada did this one very well, too, I might add. The second fall went to los rudos in 3:50 when el Egipcio got his revenge on Blue Demon by making the latter submit to a side back breaker submission hold. The third fall went 3:17 before Ramirez pinned Felino clean with a big power bomb. This gets Ramirez "revenge" for having been pinned cleanly in the semifinal the week before. I have no idea whether they are going to continue this feud, but I wouldn't be surprised if I were told the reason the feud was being stopped is because el Felino is jumping to Triple A. Ramirez looked good though not good as did Felino. But, to me, I thought the really outstanding worker in this match was Estrada (what, you thought I was going to say Grondy?). Estrada even outworked in both effort and psychology a Casas which is no mean feat. As for Grondy, who wrestled with a nice-sized hole in the rear of his britches, what is there to say. It's not that he doesn't try, though I've heard so many stories of his attitude problems. They did a few spots with Grondy and el Felino but they mostly put Grondy over in a comedy way rather than sell the concept that a little Mexican man might have a plan or strategy to defeat the American colossus as I expected they would. Blue Demon is a funny case. He never seems to get any better. He knows his holds and can do them, but they just don't look fluid. It's like trying to run a race like 100 meters and accomplishing it by stopping every 10 meters to see if you're still on the right course. Just too mechanical. The best commentary on Blue Demon junior is that as big as his dad was in the movies and all, it really says something that he means virtually nothing to Mexico City fans. (He's still a big draw out in the interior of the country, especially when matched against el Hijo del Santo, as the more casual fans know their fathers' battles from the movies more than the current wrestling angles). Now, as for el Egipcio, I always presumed (not a fact, just a guess) that the reason el Rayo de Jalisco dropped the Mexican National Heavyweight Championship to el Egipcio as a punishment to Rayo for several no-shows. That was over thirteen months ago and I can't imagine why el Egipcio still has the belt. Surely somebody (almost anybody) would be better as champion. I think the best reason to give a particular wrestler a belt is to help him draw. Watching el Egipcio, I just can't see him drawing anybody, belt or not. I know the EMLL is terribly short on heavyweights, even more so without Konnan, Caras, Sagrada, and Aguayo, but el Egipcio being the "standard bearer" is ridiculous. He tried hard in this match but there just wasn't any "there" there. \*\* 1/2, thanks to Ramirez, Felino, and Estrada.

And that brings us to this week's main event. Here, the tecnicos consisted of Atlantis (NWA World Middleweight Champion), Lizmark (who just dropped the NWA World Light Heavyweight belt last month to el Satanico), and el Rayo de Jalisco junior (now clearly EMLL's number one heavyweight). They wrestled and defeated ex-CMLL World Trios champions los Nuevos Infeles, who are made up of two-time-past-NWA World Light Heavyweight Champion M. S. 1, current champ el Satanico, and former Mexican National Heavyweight Champion el Pirata Morgan. Morgan captained the trio today and that should have been a real give-away as to what was coming up because since the day this trio was formed (10/18/91), el Satanico has always been captain. On that day, Masakre was kicked off the team and el Pirata Morgan was invited onto the team to improve the team's chances of winning the upcoming CMLL Trios tournament (they did.) Morgan had been reliable, even winning the final fall of the title match by pinning el Brazo de Oro on 11/22/91. However, lately, Morgan has been less successful, even losing the final fall of the title change to los Intocables del Ring to Masakre on 3/22/92. Now we are set up to analyze our main event. The match went three falls and 13:02. The first fall went 2:47 before los Infeles performed a human pyramid atop Lizmark for a submission. The second fall went 5:55 before Lizmark pinned el Satanico with a bouncing "huracarrana." The third fall went 4:20 before captain Rayo pinned captain Pirata. The finishing sequence was an exact duplicate of the finish of the famous Rayo-Cien Caras match from 9/21/90. In this case, Morgan whipped Rayo into the ropes, Rayo came off, Pirata lifted him up as if to give him a body slam, and Rayo shifted his weight to reverse it into an inside cradle (small package?). It was also the same pinfall finish as Savage versus Steamboat at WrestleMania III. For the fourth straight match, we had an ultra-clean finish; the last two of which were tecnico wins. After the match, the "angle" occurred. Interviewer Andres Maronas interviewed first el Satanico and el Pirata Morgan. Satanico basically accused Morgan of being the weak link on the team, causing the team to lose this match and the title match. Morgan responded in calm, babyface-style fashion, answering all of el Satanico's charges point by point. M. S. 1 stood between the two in case it came to trouble. We left things with el Satanico's basically saying "I'm keeping an eye on you" to el Pirata Morgan. I expect something to evolve from this as this team was in the television main event one Friday night real soon. EMLL head Paco Alonso has not been reticent about using either Morgan or Satanico in his main matches in the last two years. In fact, my records show that since December 1989, these two have been in more singles EMLL television main events than any other two wrestlers (Satanico is way ahead in first). I'm sure Alonso feels pressure to turn up the heat now that they are returning to la Arena Mexico and I can just see him trusting these two more than anyone. The match was OK, but took a back seat to the angle. \*\*\*. Good work.

**CALIFORNIA NEWS:** First, let me remind the California readers that the WWA has booked the Cal State-Los Angeles gym for another lucha libre spectacular this weekend. I heard from a couple of sources that the date is May 31 and a couple others that it would be Saturday night (the 30th). That info should be available through Thursday's or Friday's *La Opinion* or by calling CSLA. Second, Jalisco Promotions must be doing pretty well as they have added Saturday nights in Chino to their Sunday nights in East Los Angeles at the All Nations Center. And referee/promoter Sergio Garcia is also running twice a week; Sunday's he's out at San Bernardino at the gym Billy Anderson used to run. Thanks to reader Larry Doyle, I have a rundown of the May 17th card for Jalisco Promotions. The opener saw Ponky Boy and el Hechicero Negro won two out of three falls from The Predator and Osiris. The segunda saw el Continental and el Gitano defeat Scare Face (that's how they spell it, don't blame me) and The Black Spider. This was said to be fair, but with a good effort by el Continental. Then things picked up quite a bit. The tercera had los Verdugos I y II over Arandu and el Talisman Negro. Los Verdugos are from Guatemala, which has a major lucha libre scene led by one of the all-time best Central American luchadores (el Astro de Oro), and got heel heat with the crowd starting a "grito" of "Mexico, Mexico!" All four wrestlers here had their masks ripped to shreds. The semifinal saw a great mano a mano as el Piloto Suicida took two of three falls from el Tornado Negro II. Suicida gigged quite a bit here and both wrestlers lost their masks; at the end of the match, each had put on the other's mask (this is a great spot when not overused and it's not been overused yet). This set up a mascara contra mascara match for the 24th at the All Nations Center. If it came off, I presume el Piloto Suicida won. The main event was an all-brawl, with rudos Super Boy, el Principe Hindu, and el Terremoto Quintero (who "debuted" in this match) defeating el Piloto Nuclear, el Halcon Blanco, and Capitan Oro in three wild falls. Super Boy is said by everyone I talk to here as the best or second best in the promotion, very underrated. In addition to the mask match on the 24th, Super Muneco was booked. Neither Greg Regalado, Vandal Drummond, The Gemini Kid, nor Thunder Machine has worked either the shows of the 17th or the 24th. They should be back on the 31st (well, not Gemini, he's moved back east). Both this group and the WWA got super write-ups in *La Opinion* L.A.'s main Hispanic daily newspaper, with prominent coverage, advertisements, pictures, and consistent weekly reporting. **LATE NEWS:** Sorry for the one day delay in the mailing of this week's issue. The "late news" with results from Sunday's Mexico City shows normally arrives Tuesday mornings here in Chicago. Due to the Memorial Day holiday, this week they were scheduled to be delayed by one day. For Chicago-area readers, I did find out about a lucha libre card this coming Friday night, May 29th, 1992. It is at los Globos night club in the heart of la Villita (Little Village) at 31st street (3100S) and Central Park Avenue (3600W). The main event is, according to the program, scheduled to have Tinieblas flying in from Mexico and teaming up with el Sagitario versus Kennich (from Mexico also and worked a tour with W\*ING) and The Holy Warrior from Chicago here. The semifinal is el Gallo de Oro and el Gallo de Plata versus los Enfermeros. The tercera has The Black King and The Chicago Express versus Korak (from Mexico) and la Estrella Laser. The segunda is Nacho Barrera (promoter and booker) and Johnny Poison U. S. A. versus Buddy Reed and Lenny King. The inicial features el CHamaco Lomelie versus Crazy Horse. In an interesting twist, the final three matches will be broadcast live on "Radio Taco" WTAQ 1300 am with this promotion's money man Arturo "Paquin" Mendoza and Ismael Montiel at the microphones. Tickets are \$100.00 but only \$2.00 if you're under 7. The tag team matches are supposedly part of a tournament to crown L. A. W. A. World Parejas Champions. I wonder if Konnan knows about this (supposedly he is L. A. W. A. World Heavyweight Champion for three years plus now). Further, they announced that on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, at 11:00 pm, on "Radio La Tremenda" (WIND< 560-AM) there is a thrice-weekly lucha libre radio show, hosted by Mendoza. Well, it is Wednesday afternoon now, and the late news from Mexico City still is not in, so I shall have it for you next week. A couple of notes to close things out on. First, sorry that I have not gotten to the review of the 3/21 and 4/4 UWA Television shows. I ran out of space in this issue (that seems to be happening every week now) but I should be able to get to it next week. And if things go more slowly, I should be able to tackle the issue of why rudos and heels are put over so strongly in all of the Mexican promotions. I also am sad to report the passing away of another Mexican lucha libre legend. Jose Luis "el Chale" Romero passed away April 27, 1992. While not nearly so big a name as Rene "Copetes" Guajardo, he still got quite a respectful send-off in the magazines and at the arena shows. Now that SWS is either folding or cutting back quite a bit, I feel I should pass along my thoughts that I do not think this will affect the September 18, 1992, main event at the 59th anniversary show of lucha libre that many of us are hoping to see on a visit to Mexico. I still expect both Genichiro Tenryu and Yoshihiro Asai to be on that card; in fact, I would expect them there even if SWS folds because the status of "conquering hero of foreign mat worlds" is still a big feather in any Japanese wrestler's cap. I also know that Paco Alonso has often stated that he wanted dearly to book Naoki Sano again. I expect Sano to end up in PWF but we might see Paco get a tour or two out of Naoki this year. They still talk about Sano from his past tours in glowing terms in the magazines. And many of you have seen a new wrestling magazine debut recently. It is called *Titanes del Ring*. It is published by the publishers of *Enlace Policial* the same company that published the defunct *Luchas, Toros, y Bellezas*. It debuted with a May 7, 1992, issue and appears to be very similar to the magazine it replaced. It is oversized with a huge poster in every issue, but at 3500 pesos per week is the most expensive lucha magazine there is (*Box y Lucha* is only 1800 pesos). I just can't imagine that it has much of a future in a market that is already over-saturated with 22-24 weekly magazines; it just offers nothing new the reader can't get elsewhere.



**MINI-BIOGRAPHY: EL HIJO DEL SANTO:** El Hijo de Santo, one of 11 children of the most famous Mexican wrestler ever, was born August 2, 1962 (a date that used to be some sort of state secret). Always destined to follow in the shadow of his father, Santo isn't much bigger than his dad, either. He is billed as 166 cm tall (5'5") and 82 kg heavy (181 pounds), both of which I find to be generous estimates. Because of the family name, Santo has been pushed hard from day one. Trained by Rafael Salamanca and el Enfermero (Antonio Navarro), Santito debuted on October 18, 1982, in an arena about as far away from Mexico City as possible (Nuevo Laredo near El Paso). Since then, his career could certainly be called industrious. He has defended his mask over 40 times versus an opponent's mask or hair. Some of the famous masks he has won include la Sombra Negra (Juan Jose Salazar Alanis, on 12/15/91), Huracan Ramirez junior (Ruben Garcia, on 7/29/90), All Star (Cesar Dantes, on 12/11/89), Silver King (Cesar Gonzales, in June 1988), Kato Kung Lee (Johnny Lezcano, on 11/26/86), Cuchillo (Jaime Carillo), Leon Chino, el Espanto junior (Jesus Andrade Salas), el Cosmonauta, and los Aristoteles I y II. He has also won many manes (none so full as Vandal Drummond's), the most famous in Mexico being 1/6/91 at el Toreo from el Brazo de Oro. Santito has held many championships as well. He has been the WWA World Lightweight and WWA World Welterweight Champion. Both times, he "vacated" the championship to begin work in the UWA territory, rather than losing the titles to another wrestler on his way out of town. Santo has also held the prestigious UWA titles in the same weight categories. On October 28, 1984, at el Toreo, Santito defeated Jose "el Negro" Casas to win the UWA World Lightweight Championship. He defended the title twice in a little less than two years, versus Aristoteles and el Espanto junior, before going back to the Tijuana area to wrestle for the WWA. At this time, the Olympic Auditorium was running lucha libre cards and Santo had a famous series of matches versus Negro Casas, ending in a hair versus mask match that is still available on videocassette today. In 1989, Santo came back to Mexico City to work EMLL shows; his six months or so ended with the spectacular hair match series with All Star, Rocky Star, and Fuerza Guerrera. But the UWA needed him more and made a better offer, and beginning with the first of 1990, Santito has pretty much wrestled exclusively with the UWA. He defeated Charles Lucero on April 27, 1990, in Monterrey to win the UWA World Welterweight Championship. Upon winning this title, he relinquished all other titles. Santo was used by booker el Gran Hamada as a big draw in Japan, defending his UWA belt on three separate tours, versus Fuerza Guerrera, Black Terry, and Erick "el Canelo" Casas. Santo had 1990-1991 feuds with Brazo de Oro and Negro Casas, the latter resulting in a clean submission loss by Santito that was put on Santo's commercial videotape. Santo did work one big EMLL match, on the 58th anniversary show, teaming with el Hijo de Lizmark and el Hijo de Solitario to defeat los Brazos. In May 1992, Santito decided to jump to the Triple A full-time, lost or was stripped of his UWA belt, and then had second thoughts about the jump, apparently preferring to remain independent if possible. Also, I would be remiss not to cover the movies of el Hijo del Santo, but they were nowhere near the successes that his father's were and are mainly marked, as time goes by, the increasingly larger upper anatomy of his female co-stars. In the last three years, Santito has just released one movie, a flick shot in southeast Asia, and it bombed. Santo is fairly talented, better in what he attempts and how he scripts things than in his actual execution of moves, but can be led to a great match. One thing, though; he has the worst legdrop ever. But a very stable future as long as he keeps the mask (i.e., forever). WAIT, ULTRA LATE NEWS late Wednesday afternoon, the Sunday results DID come in. But first, I have been informed that the WWA show is Saturday night, the 30th, definitely, and that el Hijo del Santo is off the card, so if they were billing a Casas-Santo singles main event, it's off. Also, the Holiday on Ice in Mexico extended its tour to Sunday, May 31st, so one more week for EMLL at la Arena Coliseo. The EMLL is really treading water now waiting for the return to la Arena Mexico and this one week delay can't help much. In the EMLL card Sunday, May 24th, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo, I have the results of the top two matches. Salomon Grundy, Ringo Mendoza, and el Faraon defeated el Egipcio, "el Chacho" Herodes, and Ulises Plus in three falls when Grundy splashed Egipcio form off of the second rope in the third fall. The semifinal saw an all-rudos battle as los Guerreros del Espacio (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and Damian, el Guerrero) defeated el Guerrero Negro, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and el Archangel de la Muerte in three falls. As for the UWA, they ran their usual Sunday afternoon card also on May 24th at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in suburban Naucalpan. The inicial had el Ninja Sasuke (Masa Michinoku) and el Tigre Canadiense (Mike Lozansky) defeating Momotaro (Monkey Magic Wakita) and Kahos junior (making his el Toreo debut) in three falls. In the segunda, Kahos I and The Baby Face I defeated el Colso and el Sicodelico, in three falls. The tercera saw los Cazadores del Cabezas I y II (The Head Hunters A and B) team with Rambo to defeat el Solar I, el Villano I, and Enrique Vera. In the "especial," The Black Scorpio, Jose "el Negro" Casas, and el Gigante Warrior what a size difference between Casas and Warrior) defeated Fishman, Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) in an all-rudo battle in three falls. The semifinal, said to be the best match of the show, found la Bestia Hawaiana Kokina, Bufalo Allen, and Bam Bam Bigelow defeating los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) and el Villano IV in three falls. And, the main event featured the mano a mano between Canek and el Villano III. Both men were bloody and with ripped masks by the time it was over. How do you think it went? El Villano III won the first fall, apparently with a clothesline, and Canek the second, via pinfall as well with the reverse spinning leg lariat. The third saw both men brawling outside the ring at the bullring when both men went over the railing that separates the fans from ringside—which is, you guessed it, an automatic double disqualification! Will these guys never learn? They issued the usual challenges (mask, revenge) after the match. Bye!